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Forest Service NEWS



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUDWORM PROJECT BEING MONITORED

Malheur National Forest personnel, with assistance from project entomologist Iral Ragenovich, are continuing to monitor the results of the Western Spruce Budworm suppression project conducted south of John Day, Oregon, earlier this summer.

"The purpose of the project is to evaluate the effectiveness of two formulations of the biological insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.), applied at different rates," said Ragenovich. Both airplanes and helicopters were used to apply the B.t. to portions of the Malheur National Forest infested with the budworm. She said similar areas were left untreated for purposes of comparison.

Approximately two weeks after the spraying, post-spray larval samples were collected to determine the effectiveness of the different treatments. Preliminary results show that most treatments were effective in achieving the desired results. "This means that B.t. can now be considered an acceptable option for use in larger projects," said Ragenovich.

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